



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**February 28, 2025**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Bruce Lambert (DOB: 6/11/1994)** was found guilty of First Degree Murder after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Scott Paccagnini. The jury also found that the firearm enhancement allegation was proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

On October 5, 2022, Rockford Police responded to the area of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a car crashed into the Keith Creek ditch. Upon arrival, officers found Cleonta Day unresponsive, suffering from a gunshot wound. He later died from that wound. During the investigation, detectives learned that the defendant, Bruce Lambert, had previous arguments with the victim. Lambert shot Day as he was seated inside his idling vehicle on 12<sup>th</sup> Street just south of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The vehicle traveled down 12<sup>th</sup> Street and crossed 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue under its own power before it came to rest in the Keith Creek ditch. Cleonta Day was able to escape the vehicle.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of Mandatory Supervised Release. The Defendant is eligible for an additional 25 year sentence since the firearm enhancement allegation was proven.

Lambert is scheduled to be back in court on March 21, 2025, before Judge Paccagnini in Courtroom 478 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. First Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue and Assistant State's Attorney Kris Carpenter are handling the prosecution.

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